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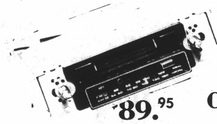

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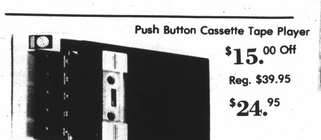

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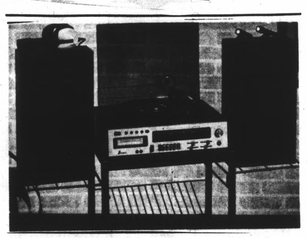

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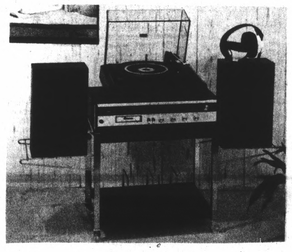

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Father Darkleaf

BY CALVIN ROBINSON

One thing that makes the Christmas Season so pleasant is that everyone is on their very best behavior. Take no chance on offending anyone. Santa Claus might be listening. Or watching.

* * *

Looking around the corner toward 1979, I managed to collect three new calendars. Did not want to appear greedy, and three is enough for the average household. Found out that there will be a Friday the thirteenth in April and July. Christmas next year is on a Tuesday. One of the calendars was an almanac affair, loaded with information as to when to plant what and useful things to know around the kitchen, etc. Such information as . . if you crack an egg, also crack the egg at the other end and the contents will not leak out when boiling. And horoscope information. My sign is Sagitarius and it says I am warm, friendly but timid.

* * *

A cold week end. Have made myself a chart and am making a weather recording, as of 7 a.m. Monday morning's low of 17 is the record thus far, a mighty drop from Saturday's 65. Hog killing days, topcoat days.

* * *

My birthday is not until the 21st, but already have a birthday cake. T. Rufus Cawthorne, now of Pompano, Florida, sent by air express and brought some presents, including a large cake, complete with candles and holders. Maybe the nicest part about it was that there were only twenty-four candles.

* * *

December 17, 1903 was a memorable date and Kitty Hawk, N. C. the locale. Orville and Wilbut Wright made history with the first successful airplane flight. Ah yes, I am timid about flying and have been up only three times. I wonder how many Appomattox people have flown in an airplane. Would make a wild guess and say ten percent, but really suspect that is too high. If'n we had more flyers, there would be a demand for a local public airport.

* * *

So much excitement on the sports pages and TV sports programs, and bowl games coming up. What team is the sports champ? What would happen if the world series baseball winner played the Super Bowl football winner? Five innings of baseball and two quarters of football. With champs in tennis, golf, bowling and basketball as substitutes and/or officials. Surprise, surprise, the Harlem Globetrotters would steal the show!

* * *

Many garden spaces have been plowed in anticipation of an early start next Spring. And I have noticed so many with large woodpiles and lots of them have covered the wood with plastic. Probably you can, but doubt if I could drive by a home and tell by looking at the smoke coming from a chimney whether they are using wood, coal or fuel oil. No smoke at all might mean either electric heat or nobody home.

* * *

Hope some group is planning to drive around and sing Carols Christmas Eve night.

* * *

Call the Times-Virginian and see that your business is represented by a nice Greeting Ad next week!

* * *

Soon be time for New Year Resolutions and one of mine is to clean off the desk in my den. Had a try at it one afternoon and quickly filled two waste baskets. But right now, Christmas has the green light and that is the way it should be.

* * *

Thanks for reading and seeya next week.

ACHS Senior Receives Honor

Tamara Nash

The Administration and Guidance Department of Appomattox County High School has received notification from the State Department of Education that Tamara Dawn Nash has been selected first alternate from Virginia in competition for participation in the 1979 United States Senate Youth Program.

In 1962, the United States Senate voted unanimously to endorse a nationwide youth program that would bring high school students to Washington, D. C. for a brief indoctrination into the functions of the Federal Government and, in particular the United States Senate. The William Randolph Hearst Foundation made available the necessary fund and, each year for the past sixteen, two high school juniors or seniors from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia have participated in this unique learning experience.

Tamara, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Nash of Appomattox, was nominated by her school to compete in this program. On the basis of her academic and leadership qualities, she was selected as one of 15 semi-finalists. Using the criteria for selection of student delegates as stipulated by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, Tamara was selected first alternate among the top state finalists to appear in Richmond on November 14 for an interview. Although Tamara was not selected as a Virginia delegate, she demonstrated special qualities worthy of recognition during the interview on November 14. In the event a delegate becomes ineligible or does not accept the $1,500 Scholarship Award, Tamara will become the recipient of the scholarship. This high honor is indicative of Tamara's outstanding achievements and leadership abilities.

Rep. Daniel To Hold Workshop

Fifth District Congressman Dan Daniel will hold constituent "workshops" in Appomattox, Buckingham and Cumberland counties on Friday, December 22nd.

He will be in the Clerk's Office at Appomattox from 9 to 11 a.m.; in the Clerk's Office at Buckingham from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; and in the old Clerk's Office at Cumberland from 2 to 4 p.m.

Any resident of the Fifth District who has a problem with a Federal agency may see the Congressman - at those times. He will also be available for discussion of legislative matters.

Those who wish to discuss pending cases should bring with them prior correspondence or file numbers to aid the Congressman in his follow up.

Santa To Be In Pamplin

The Pamplin Ruritans will bring Santa to "downtown" Pamplin Saturday, December 16 at 2 p.m. Santa will have candy for all the children.

Council Approves 1979 Budget

Decrease From 1978 Budget

Appomattox Town Council adopted the town budget for 1979 in the amount of $273,078.00 at its meeting on Monday night. The newly adopted budget will be effective January 1, 1979.

The budget as adopted by council reflects a decrease of $56,850.00 from the 1978 budget which totaled $329,928.00.

Reflected in the total budget is $19,000.00 expenses for Appomatox Public Schools electric charges. This amount compares with to that of $30,000 in the 1978 budget for this expense. This item is reimbursable to the Town of Appomattox.

In the 1979 budget, $183,494.00 was approved for expenditures for the General Fund as compared to a total of $227,028 in the 1978 budget; $20,754.00 was approved for expenditures for the Sewer Fund as compared to a total of $25,000.00 for the Water Fund. This amount compares to the total of $77,900 in the 1978 budget.

Of the $183,494.00 appproved and allocated for the General Fund $57,737.00 will go for Administrative Expenses as compared to the 1978 total of $129,322.00; $47,628.00 goes to the Police Department, this figure compares with $29,350.00 allocated in the 1978 budget; $8,235.00 goes for expenses of the Fire Department in the 1979 budget, as compared to $6,150.00 in the 1978 budget; the Sanitation Department was allocated $19,167.00 for 1979 as compared to an allocation of $14,550.00 in 1978; and the Street Department was allocated a total of $32,807.00 for expenses in the 1979 AS compared to the $26,000.00 allocation in the 1978 budget.

Following a Public Hearing Monday evening, council approved the proposed change of the out-of-town sewer rate for customers.

The old sewer rate was 38 cents on $100.00 of 100 percent of the accured valuation of property. The newly adopted sewer rate for out-of-town customers was changed to 100 percent of the total water bill for 1978. In 1979 this will be billed at each billing period.

Council approved the 1976-77 unspent, unallocated Revenue Sharing money as advertised in previous articles in the TIMES-VIRGINIAN.

In other business, council passed a resolution asking Senator HOward Anderson and Delegate Claude Anderson to introduce a bill in the General Assembly to exempt volunteer organizations from the newly passed Rules and Regulations as set forth by the Virginia State Board of Health.

Garden Club To Sponsor Home Decorations Contest

The Appomattox Garden Club will sponsor a decorations for homes contest in Appomattox this Christmas.

To be judged will be door decorations and over-all outside home decorations. Judging will be divided in two classes traditional and modern - for both door and over-all outside decorations.

Anyone living outside the town limits wishing to have their home decorations judged are asked to contact Mrs. Ann Staples, telephone 352-2257.

Out of town judges will judge the Christmas decorations on Thursday, December 21st, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. All persons who wish to have their homes judged are asked to have lighting on by 5 p.m.

Canneries To Close Dec. 21

School Community Canneries, located at Pamplin and in the Town of Appomattox, will close on Thursday, December 21. This will complete the canning season for 1978. The canneries had been in operation since July 1. The canning season has been much more successful this year than during the past few years. Volume figures for both canneries will be released in January, 1979.

Patrons who desire to render lard or can meat are requested to call the canneries for appointments. It is the desire of the Appomattox County School Board and Cannery workers to accommodate as many patrons as possible before the close of the canning season. The number to call in Pamplin is 248-6191 and in Appomattox 352-2222.

AMERICAN FEDERAL ANNOUNCES HOLIDAY HOURS

American Federal Savings and Loan Association, Appomattox Office, has announced holiday hours for December.

They will be open Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. On Saturday, December 16th, and on Saturday, December 23rd, American Federal will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 12 noon for your convenience.

Post Office - Holiday Hours, Correction

In the December 7th edition of the TIMES VIRGINIAN, the Appomattox Post Office announced that they would be open from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on two Saturdays prior to Christmas.

Window service at the Appomattox Post Office will be expanded to provide service from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, December 16, 1978. There will be no window service on Saturday, December 23rd as previously announced.

Fifth Annual Civil War Christmas And Peace Celebration

On Saturday, December 16 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., Appomattox Court House National Historical Park will host its Fifth Annual "Civil War Christmas and Peace Celebration". The village where the tragic Civil War was reduced to a "gentleman's peace" will come alive as the event recaptures life in the town of 1865, when there was more emphasis on the religious significance of the time, with family gaterings and feasting marking the season.

Costumed hostesses will welcome everyone to the decorated historic buildings and homes of the village residents and Christmas carols will be sung around warm bonfires. Lanterns and lamps will be decorated with holly and magnolia leaves, and trees decorated with gingerbread men, popcorn and berry garlands and candles will be placed in the visitor center in the Court House and in the McLean House, where General Lee and Grant signed their "gentleman's agreement" ending the Civil War.

For many years after the war ended, veterans and civilians alike visited the rural town to see McLean's house and the village where it all ended, but nothing was done to preserve the historical area until 1930.

At that time, Congress acquired an acre of ground to erect a monument to commemorate the event. In 1935, Congress authorized the establishment of the park that is now under the management of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. Today the park contains 1219 acres and 13 original structures that existed in 1865 along with ten reconstructed buildings on their original sites. All have been restored to their wartime appearance at the close of the war.

The Park Service has been meticulous in preserving the village as it was. No paved streets, sidewalks or outside electrical lighting detract from the authenticity of the area.

Dress warmly for this event and join in an evening of fellowship and reflection upon the spirit of peace. Appomattox Court House National Historical Park is located three miles north of Appomattox, Virginia on State Route 24.

photo by Joe Vaughan

Today Proclaimed Raider-Raiderette Day

Ronald Spiggle, Mayor of the Town of Appomattox, and Dr. S. R. Lawson, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors for Appomattox County, have proclaimed Thursday (today), December 14, 1978, as Raider-Raiderette Day in Appomattox. This proclamation is made to honor the 1978 ACHS Seminole District Volleyball Champions and the famous ACHS Raider football championship team. Special activities are planned at the high school on the 14th of December, all of which are open to the public.

The proclamation issued reads as follows:

IN SO FAR AS the 1978 Appomattox Raider Football Team was Seminole District Champions, and so far as the 1978 Raiders represented the Seminole District in the State Group AA, Championship Playoff;

AND WHEREAS, this was done in a sportsmanship-like manner;

AND WHEREAS, the Raiderette Volleyball Team was the 1978 Seminole District Champions;

WHEREAS, this was done in a sportsmanship-like manner;

AND WHEREAS, the Citizens of Appomattox are extremely proud of the accomplishments of these outstanding young citizens and athletes;

We, Ronald C. Spiggle, Mayor of the Town of Appomattox, and Dr. S. R. Lawson, Chairman of the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim Thursday, December 14, 1978, as Raider-Raiderette Day.

Shown in the photo above, left to right, are Mayor Spiggle; Andrew Kelso, a Tri-Captain of the football team; Vanessa Smith, a Tri-Captain of the football team; Vanessa Smith, a Tri-Captain of the volleyball team; Joe Fraley, a Tri-Captain of the football team; Susan Godsey, a Tri-Captain of the volleyball team; Jill Walton, a Tri-Captain of the volleyball team; and Ronnie Abernathy, a Tri-Captain of the football team.

At 11:00 a.m. today there will be a total school assembly honoring the Championship teams. The boys and girls varsity basketball squads for 1978-79 will be introduced as well as the varsity basketball cheerleaders.

At 6:30 p.m. the annual Fall Sports Program will be held in the Appomattox County High School cafeteria. Special awards and trophies will be presented during the evening. There is no admission for this program. Everyone is invited to attend.

Light refreshments will be served following the program.

Board Discusses Social Studies Skills

The Appomattox County School Board met in regular session on Wednesday, December 6, 1978 at 3:00 p.m. in the School Board Office. The board gave a major part of the meeting to a discussion of social studies competencies which students in the class of 1981 must pass to graduate from high school.

The State Board of Education requires that an accredited school shall require as a condition of graduation that students demonstrate mastery of minimum competency in the areas of reading and mathematics on tests prescribed by the Board of Education. Local authorities shall also require evidence, through performance related assessment tasks as part of the instructional program and/or through a test if preferred by the locality, that graduates have attained minimum competencies in essential citizenship skills, concepts, and knowledge of history and government necessary for responsible participation in American society within the world community.

Tenth grade students were tested in mathematics and reading this fall. Tests in these areas were provided by the State Department of Education.

Each local division has responsibility for the development of minimum standards of performance in social studies and citizenship. Teachers of social studies in the Appomattox Middle School and Appomattox County High School have been working on minimum standards during this fall and this information was presented to the board by Mrs. Judy Dorety, Chairperson of the

Continued on Page 9

Supervisors Agree To Limit on Pay Hikes

The Appomattox County Board of Supervisors, meeting Friday, agreed that salary increases in the 1979-80 budget will be limited to seven percent.

At this time they cited President Carter's anti-inflation program and the need to reduce taxes next year if possible.

County department heads are to be notified of the board's decision and the supervisors are also asking for the final budget requests from county offices by February 9, 1979.

The State Compensation Board, which provides a share of the operating cost for local constitutional offices, also will be asked to comply with the board's seven percent salary limit.

The board learned that it might have to foot a larger portion of the overall school budget next year due to a predicted enrollment drop that would mean less additional money from the state.

School Superintendent Lloyd G. Walton said, "I'm projecting at this time a decrease of about 75 students next year."

He noted such projections are difficult because of the high number of people moving into and out of the county, but said "with this projected enrollment and with the money anticipated from the state I don't expect we'll get very much more. I'm actually projecting about the same amount of money from the state next year as we're getting now."

This means that if the teachers get a raise next year it'll have to come from local money.

Walton also reported Appomattox County's scores on the minimum competency tests taken by 10th graders in October, emphasing the figures he cited were still not official.

He said 26.5 percent failed the reading and 21.6 failed the mathematics skills tests, and school personnel were beginning to analyze the test results in order to help the pupils who need it.

"I expect the state legislature may help some of these kids," Walton said, adding, "that's the one area where we may get some money." He noted any state money allocated for educational programs aimed at the low test scorers

Continued on Page 9

Ms. Diane Cote'

Delinquency Prevention Specialist Appointed

W. R. Britton, Jr. Appomattox Town Manager and Special Projects Administrator to the Appomattox Board of Supervisors, announced the appointment of Ms. Diane Cote' to the position of Delinquency Prevention Specialist. Ms. Cote' will be working closely with the Home School Coordinator of Appomattox Public Schools, Mr. Daniel Davis, to help prevent youth from dropping out of school, as well as working with students who are experiencing adjustment and behavioral problems in school and the community.

In July 1977, the Virginia General Assembly removed "status" offenses from the "criminal" code. Status offenses are offenses which can only be committed by juveniles such as runaways, incorrigibles and truants. Since children in these categories can no longer be committed to State Institutions the localities bear more responsibility for providing alternatives to these youth. The Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 made federal funds available for alternative programs and the Appomattox position was funded for 1978-1979 by the Virginia Council on Criminal Justice, with the County appropriating five per cent (5%) matching fraction.

Ms. Cote' is a native of Virginia Beach and received a Bachelors Degree in Sociology from Longwood College in May 1978. She performed field work in Delinquency Prevention during her last scholastic year. Ms. Cote will be residing in Appomattox. Her office will be located in the Appomattox Juvenile and Domestic Court and she will be under the general supervision of Roland B. Murphy, Director of Court Services.